

## Proposed basic FOLK work party programme for April to September 2021

### Status report 24/09/2021 – work completed shown by ~~strikethrough~~ font; red font shows notes or additional work undertaken

Note that, according to Natural England rules, scrub clearance and grass cutting should be curtailed between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> July (and tree removal between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> August). These restrictions do not apply to footpath maintenance or restoration work which can be done with caution.

#### Work carried over from previous periods

- ~~• Burn hawthorn cuttings left from clearance work above Daisy Bank Road to East of pull in~~
- ~~• Burn gorse cuttings left from clearing a fire break above the Cotswold Way~~
- ~~• Burn gorse cuttings left from clearing a butterfly route in Area 32 between Cowslip Meadow and the Hazel coppice~~
- ~~• Removal of 50% of gorse (rotational cutting) in shallow depression (home to fly orchids) in Old Area 18 (QGIS Gorse Area 29) less than 50% removed~~
- Cutting track through gorse block in Area 26 to open up butterfly route.

#### Routine work

- Annual cutting as required on:
  - ~~○ Old Area 16 above Bridge Car Park~~
  - Limekilns
  - Barrow & Butterfly Motorway
  - Sidings only 50% cut
  - Brownstone Quarry
  - ~~○ Judy's Ride~~
- ~~• Ragwort (incl. Hopkins Fields) and Hemp Agrimony removal~~
- Footpath and car park clearance/maintenance as required, potentially including:
  - Walking tracks, footpaths, desire lines and removing any encroaching and overhanging growth impeding access, including Windass
  - Repair steps by stiles from the Cirencester Road into Hopkins Fields
  - ~~○ Repair steps by gate through main Cotswold stone wall leading to Hartley Farm done by Wardens~~
- Cut back annual growth obscuring the Cotswold stone walls
  - ~~○ Alongside Hopkins Field part done by FOLK, more done by Wardens~~
  - Old wall between Hartley Lane and the ramparts being cleared by Wardens as needed for wall rebuilding
  - ~~○ Wall near the Barrow~~
- Chemical spraying of stands of Rosebay Willowherb, Golden Rod, Michaelmas Daisy and ground-hugging Ivy
- Trial spraying of patches of bramble above Shackleton
- ~~• Litter picking, particularly in areas used for social gatherings and barbecues~~
- Rotationally cutting and burning gorse in Area 28 using volunteers from Cheltenham College
- Cutting, treating and burning gorse blocking the views from the Cotswold Way in Area 28 using volunteers from a local church group.

#### New work

- ~~• Remove gorse and growth on the back side of the main Cotswold stone wall along Old Area 19 (incl. trial chemical treatment of cut gorse stems to check if it works at this time of year). Check and cut back any other growth along the front side of the main wall.~~
- Clearing the perimeter fence line of growth along the top of Sandy Lane, along the Gallops and at the bottom of Cowslip Meadow
- ~~• Trim annual growth under and along wire fence alongside Daisy Bank Road~~

- Remove Cotoneaster
- Preparations for next Winter
  - Consider how to improve access along heavily scoured end of the formal bridleway at the limekilns
  - Consider how to improve access off the top of the Hill onto the Woodland Walk
  - ~~Consider what can be done to reduce the muddy patches experienced in 2020/21 winter~~ Contractor being used to resurface and regrade sections of the Cotswold Way

#### **QGIS/Mapping**

- ~~Identify areas of species rich grassland where we should focus our work~~
- ~~Continue survey and mapping of scrub areas~~

#### **National Grid Project**

- ~~Input to the preparation of a site management plan~~
- ~~Input to the planning for contractor work on gorse, scrub and trees in Winter 2021/22~~
- ~~Support to Ravensgate if required~~

#### **Possible Work for other Volunteer Groups**

- ~~Improvements to the areas on both sides of the gate at the top South West corner of Charlton Kings Common which got very wet and muddy in Winter 2020/21~~ Contractor undertaking this

Prepared by Geoff Holt (with support/advice)

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (status report)